4/9/98

v09-16-96ccr

JFK RECORDS

Cross Reference: None

Status in System:

AGENCY : HSCA

RECORD NUMBER : 180-10131-10331

RECORD SERIES : SECURITY CLASSIFIED TESTIMONY

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 014729

Other Agency Equity:

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA

FROM : MCCONE, JOHN A.

TO:

TITLE: DEPOSITION OF JOHN A. MCCONE

DATE : 08/17/78

PAGES: 54

DOCUMENT TYPE : TRANSCRIPT

SUBJECT(S): OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD, TRAVEL, TRIP TO

MEXICO; DULLES, ALLEN; ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES; WARREN

COMMISSION; CONSPIRACY THEORIES, FIDEL CASTRO;

CONSPIRACY THEORIES, KGB; CIA, METHODOLOGY; MCCONE, JOHN

A., TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE;

CLASSIFICATION : TOP SECRET

RESTRICTIONS : 256

CURRENT STATUS : REFERRED

DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/21/93

COMMENTS: Box 7.

Date in: 01/26/96

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JFK ASSASSINATION COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION FORM

Agency: HSCA Record Number:
Record Series: SECURITY CLASSIFIED TESTIMONY
Agency File Number: 014729
Originator: HSCA
From: McCone, John A.
To:
Title: Deposition of John A- McCone R
Date: 8/17/78
Pages: 54 Subjects: McCone, John A., testimony before the committee 1. CIA, methodology R 3. Conspiracy Theories, KGB 4. Conspiracy Theores, Fidel Castro R 6. Anti-Costro Achuities R
Document Type: + ranscript 7. Dulles, Allen 8. Oswald, Lee, Post-Russian Rend, Trav Classification: U C S (I) Trip to Mexico
Restrictions: Open 1A 1B 1C 2 3 4 5 D
Current Status: 0 P X
Date of Last Review: / /93
Opening Criteria:
comments: Two duplicates included,

Folder Title:

Box #: 7

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John F. Kennedy Subcommittee

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSIVEMONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Select Committee on Assassinations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The undersigned, having had an opportunity to review the foregoing transcript, hereby acknowledges that the stenographic record is a true, accurate and complete recordation of the sworn testimony I provided.

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John A. McCone

Date: Light 100 1978

City and State:

Jos augeles Calif

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Subcommittee on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Los Angeles, California Thursday, August 17, 1978

Deposition of

JOHN A. MC CONE

called for examination by counsel for the Committee, pursuant to notice, at 612 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, California 90017, beginning at 11:30 a.m., when were present:

For the Committee:

Robert W. Genzman, Staff Counsel

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. GENZMAN: My name is Robert Genzman. I am

Staff Counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

I have been designated counsel in power to take statements under oath pursuant to House Resolution 222 and Select Committee Rule Number 4.

Whereupon,

JOHN A. MC CONE

was called for examination by counsel for the Committee and, having been first duly sworn by the Notary Public, was examined and testified as follows:

By Mr. Genzman:

- Q Mr. McCone, would you identify yourself for the record?
- A Yes. I am John A. McCone, a resident of San Marino, California.
- $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Q}}$ And you have been duly sworn by Notary, Saul S. Weiss for this deposition?
 - A I presume his name was Saul S. Weiss.
 - Q Thank you.

Mr. McCone, this deposition will be taped and the tape will be sent back to Washington, D. C. to be transcribed. The transcript of the deposition will be made available to you for corrections. According to our Committee rules, a witness is entitled to a copy of the corrected transcript; however, because this is a deposition involving classified information and also CIA information, it has been our policy to ask such

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a witness to waive his right to a copy.

A I will waive it, providing if I am called to testify on this subject at some future time, I can have access to the transcript to refresh my mind.

Q As I previously stated, Mr. McCone, a copy of the transcript of this deposition will be sent to you for your signature and verification. If, when you receive your copy to sign and verify it you desire to make any changes for any reasons, you should get in touch with me and I will make the necessary arrangements to have you initial or make any changes that you desire to make.

Mr. McCone, are you giving this statement voluntarily?

A Yes.

Q And do you realize that you have the right to counsel?

A Yes.

Q Have you been given a copy of our Committee Rules and the House resolutions?

- A Yes, but I read only one section; that is Section 4.
- Q You have read section 4 of our Committee Rules?
- A That is right.
- Q And you understand Section 4 of our Committee Rules.
- A That is right.
- Q Fine.

Mr. McCone, is it true that you are not under subpoena for this deposition?

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A That is correct.

Q Do you desire to have counsel present?

A No because I assume we will deal with some classified matters and my counsel here is not cleared.

Q Mr. McCone, is it correct that you have worked for the Central Intelligence Agency?

A Yes.

Q And were you Director of Central Intelligency at one time?

A Yes.

Q Could you give me the dates of your tenure as director?

A From October of 1961 until April 30, 1965.

Q In connection with your duties with the CIA, have you at any time executed a secrecy agreement or a secrecy oath with the Agency?

A Yes.

Q At this time, I would like to give you a copy of a document labeled JFK Exhibit 94, which is a letter from Mr. Frank Carlucci, Acting Director of the CIA, to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Assassinations, which deals with secrecy agreements and secrecy oaths of CIA employees. Have you had a chance to read that letter?

A Yes.

Q Thank you.

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Mr. McCone, what role, if any, did the CIA have in the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?

A Well, I think that that subject is well covered in my testimony before the Warren Commission and the testimony of other senior CIA officers. While I have not reviewed the testimony of others, I have reviewed my testimony and it seems to answer your question.

Q Do you have anything further to add which might shed more light on the role of the CIA in investigating the assassination of President Kennedy?

A No. I think that the CIA carried out all of its responsibilities properly and adequately, and I think that their response to the Warren Commission and the Commission staff was very comprehensive.

Q Do you recall how the CIA's investigation into the assassination was organized at the Agency?

A Mr. Helms testified on that and I would stand on his testimony. He was in direct charge of it himself.

Q Did you yourself have any direct responsibilities or duties in coordinating or directing the investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy?

A Yes. My responsibility was to see that the investigation and the review of the CIA's relationship, if any, with Oswald were thoroughly studied and all relevant matters conveyed

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to the Warren Commission.

Q Do you recall which staff or unit, if any, at the CIA was given primary responsibility for coordinating CIA's investigation?

- A No. I do not recall now ---
- Q Do you recall whether ---

A --- was in the so-called Deputy Director for Plans or just how he had that organized. It slipped my mind through the years.

- Ω Do you recall whether the counterintelligence staff in the Deputy Directorate of Plans had primary responsibility?
- A Whether they had primary responsibility, that I do not know but I am positive that they were involved.
- Q Do you recall what specific responsibilities were given to ______as to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy?
 - A No.
- Q Do you recall the chain of reporting or the chain of command within the CIA as to the information that was obtained relevant to the assassination?
 - A I do not understand your question.
- Q When the CIA obtained information which was relevant to the assassination investigation, do you recall the chain through which the information was passed through the CIA before it was actually sent to the Warren Commission?

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A No. I do not recall the steps gone through the building. I know that it was a subject of discussion at our senior staff meetings quite frequently, and that was done in order to insure that we were playing our part in transmitting to the Warren Commission all of the information that we had.

Q Do you recall how the overall responsibility for investigating the assassination was divided between the FBI, on the one hand, and the CIA on the other?

A Well, in all matters of this kind, the FBI is the primary responsible agent for domestic incidents. The CIA is primarily responsible for incidents overseas. So, I felt--and I still do feel--that the primary responsibility for investigation was the FBI, and the Secret Service, of course.

Q Do you feel that this division of responsibility was workable?

A I think quite satisfactorily, although it is very difficult for me to say that there was always a complete, open channel between the CIA and the FBI on this particular matter. But at that time, the FBI had four or five men quartered in Langley and there was a very close liaison.

Q Do you recall any specific problems or conflicts which developed out of this relationship between the FBI and the CIA with respect to the assassination investigation?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you recall any instances of the FBI's withholding of information?

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A None was reported to me. Now, they may have withheld information at lower levels on the basis that it was their prerogative to do so, but I do not recall it right now.

Q Do you know whether the CIA's investigation reflected any working hypotheses? In other words, was the CIA approaching its investigation into the assassination on any particular basis—for instance, any particular conspiracy theory or theories or anything along those lines?

A Oh, indeed yes. We were very much concerned that the assassination might have been a conspiracy, that it might have been prompted by the Intelligence Services of Castro or the KGB. We were satisfied that there was no evidence to support such conspiracy.

Q Was the CIA's concern that the Intelligence Pervices of the Soviet Union or of Cuba might have been involved based upon Lee Harvey Oswald's contacts with those two countries?

A Yes.

We were familiar with the fact that he had been in Russia and we also were familiar with the fact that he had gone to Mexico, gone to the Cuban Embassy, seeking a transit visa through Havana and on to Russia. We knew that that had been refused.

Q What input, if any, did the Warren Commission have with regard to the areas of the investigation that the CIA gave the most emphasis?

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A I do not understand that question.

Q Did the people working with the Warren Commission at any time communicate to the CIA that they felt that certain areas should receive the most emphasis in the investigation?

A Well, I cannot recall; I assume that they did because there was constant communication between the staff of
the Warren Commission and the working group of the CIA who were
involved as well as the working group, FBI. What was his nameBerlin was the man that was ---

Q Are you speaking of David Belin?

A David Belin who was Rankin's deputy, was frequently in touch with our people as well as the FBI.

Q Did the CIA volunteer information to the Warren

Commission or was it the CIA's procedure to give information to
the Warren Commission based on the Warren Commission's request?

A The policy of CIA was to give the Warren Commission everything that we had. I personally asked Chief Justice Warren to come to my office and took him down to the vault of our building where our information is microfilmed and stored and showed him the procedures that we were following and the extent to which we were giving him--giving his staff everything that we had. And I think he was quite satisfied.

Q Do you recall the average amount of time between the CIA's receipt of a Warren Commission request until the time that the CIA was able to respond to that request and communicate

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back to the Warren Commission?

Α No.

Was any member of the Warren Commission or its staff informed by the CIA of the CIA's plots against Castro, particularly the anti-Castro assassination plots?

I do not know that. I do not think that any of the CIA witnesses before the Warren Commission or myself or Mr. Helms or others testified concerning the plots of several years earlier against Castro, the assassination plots. Now, I assume, however, that since Mr. Allen Dulles, who was the Director of Central Intelligence when those activities were going on, he would have informed his fellow commissioners in closed session concerning those plots. And I imagine that the Warren Commission took them into consideration.

But I do not know that because there is nothing in the record to show that, to my knowledge.

Are you saying that Allen Dulles would have been in a position to know about these assassination plots?

--- position to know about them. I was not because I was not informed about them, as you know from testimony before the Rockefeller Commission and the Church Committee and so forth.

Do you recall when you were first told about the anti-Castro assassination plots or when you first found out about them?

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A Yes. I recall it and it was in August of 1963. The way it came about was this: I was informed that the Chicago--a Chicago newspaper, Chicago News, I believe, was to run an article stating that there was an inner relationship, a working agreement, between the mafia and the CIA. It was not to state that that agreement or understanding had anything to do with the assassination plot against Castro.

The fact that there was a story coming out, which I received some advance information on concerning the relationship, a relationship that had been established between the mafia and the CIA, prompted me to question Helms. Helms brought a paper into my office outlining a supposed plot in which indeed the mafia were to be used in an attempt on Castro's life.

I was told that this whole program, which had been initiated in the latter part of 1960 and carried on until about the time of the Bay of Pigs in April, 1961, was extinguished in its entirety and for that reason, I had not been informed of it at all.

In fact, it was kept in such close confidence that there was only one copy of the memorandum from CIA to the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, explaining the plan.

Now, all of this happened when Mr. Dulles was director, and it was felt that since it had been washed out long before I became director, there was no particular reason why I should have been informed.

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Q Do you know whether the CIA were still contemplating the assassination plot $^S_\Lambda$ against Castro as late as 1963?

A Yes. There was an authorization given to CIA in the early part of the Kennedy Administration, perhaps soon after he was inaugurated, to develop a plan for the elimination of Castro. There was no authorization for action. The authorization was for a plan.

Now, this I was not told about. Some operational people in the CIA took this as authority to take certain actions, and these have all been discussed in the Church Committee hearings and so forth and you know all about them. But, in doing so, they acted beyond their authority and I am quite sure that since all of these attempts failed that there was a penetration of whatever organizations attempting to carry out the plan and, hence, Castro was informed about it.

Q Do you recall when you were first informed about the fact that people in the CIA were turning this plan into action?

A It was either just before the Rockefeller Commission hearings or just before the Church hearings, not until then.

Q Could you estimate the year when you first were informed?

A Well, I think the Rockefeller hearings were 1945 or '46--no, I mean two or three years ago, 1965 or '66.

Q 1975 or 1976?

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- A '75 or '76.
- Q I see.

When you were first told about the anti-Castro assassination plot in, I believe you said August of '63, do you recall what your response was?

A My response was that CIA should not engage in any such activities and I was told that they were not engaging in it, that this was old history which had been extinguished two and one half years before and not to worry about it.

Q Did you feel that you adequately communicated to your subordinates that CIA should not participate in such plots?

A I think it was well known throughout CIA that I would not tolerate such activities.

Q Do you feel that your reputation for not being tolerant of such activities led to your not being informed of later plans and activities along these lines?

A I do not know why I was not informed. You are familiar with the Inspector General's report in which a Mr. Harvey had proposed that I be briefed and Mr. Helms said that there was no reason to brief me, and I was not briefed. I have never discussed this with Mr. Helms because I have not seen him since I had access to the Inspector General's report. So, I do not know the reason.

Q Do you feel that the anti-Castro assassination plots

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were relevant to the Warren Commission's investigation?

A In retrospect, I do. Whether the Commission thought they were or not, I do not know because I do not know--I do not think anybody knows--whether Allen Dulles briefed the Commission on those plans.

- Q Do you know how early Castro himself knyw about the assassination plots against him?
 - A No, I do not.
- Q I believe you said earlier that you felt that at some point the anti-Castro assassination activities might have been subject to penetration. In light of that opinion, do you think that Castro was able to find out about the assassination plots against him before the time when President Kennedy was assassinated?

A I would assume so. I would assume so. I do not know, but I would assume so.

Q Assuming Castro did know about the CIA's assassination plots against him before the Kennedy assassination, do you think his knowledge might have been a motivation for Cuban involvement in the assassination, hypothetically?

A Well, it was a hypothetical question, and it is very difficult to answer. If he was involved in a conspiracy with Oswald, then I think that he would have permitted Oswald an avenue of escape. He would have permitted the issuance of a transit visa.

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I cannot believe that if he had--if Castro and his organization had been involved with Oswald that they would run the risk of Oswald being captured and able to indict Castro as a co-conspirator in the assassination. That does not add up to me.

Q On the other hand, do you think it would have made sense for Castro, assuming hypothetically that he was involved in an assassination plot against Kennedy, to have provided the alleged killer with an escape route through Cuba?

A Well, I would think so, yes. I would think that the last thing that he would want would be to have Oswald captured, imprisoned, tried and at the end of the trial it would come out that Castro and his organization were co-conspirators.

That would not make any sense, would it?

facility to avoid identification for he would know that the anger of this country was so great that it would be unpredictable what this country would do under such circumstances.

Q Do you know what consideration the Warren Commission was giving to the theory that the assassination of President Kennedy was part of a Castro conspiracy?

A No, I do not gam

I have read the Warren Commission report completely but I have never heard it commented by anyone that this was a subject that they gave consideration to, that they concluded

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that Oswald was acting alone. But whether they concluded that after evaluating these matters we have just been discussing or whether they concluded that in ignorance of these matters, I do not know.

Q Prior to the time when the Warren report was published, do you recall whether the CIA had any documents or other information which indicated that Castro may have known about the CIA's assassination plots against him?

A No. We had no information from any of our resources that Castro knew. Afterwards, I think he mentioned it in a speech or two, but I think that was sometime later.

Q Do you believe that the CIA might have wanted to withhold from the Warren Commission information about the anti-Castro assassination plots either to avoid embarrassing the agency or to avoid some sort of international crisis?

A I cannot answer that since they withheld the information from me, I cannot answer that question. I have never been satisfied as to why they withheld the information from me.

Q I believe you stated earlier that you were first apprised in August of 1963. After you had been apprised of the anti-Castro assassination plot, at that time, do you recall whether the CIA did not desire to give the Warren Commission this information in order to avoid embarrassing the agency or to avoid some sort of international crisis?

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A No. I think they felt that it was an operation that was called off. I do not think at that time they knew that Castro knew anything about it. I think that they felt that it was just a chapter in history that was not relevant.

Q Do you recall whether it was the Agency's position in dealing with the Warren Commission to provide the Warren Commission with information only when and if the Warren Commission specifically asked for that information?

A No. As I said previously, it was--the instructions were and the Agency carried out those instructions to give the Warren Commission everything they knew about Oswald. That does not mean they gave them everything they knew about Cuba or everything they knew about everything else, but everything they knew about Oswald.

Q Is it your position that the Agency provided the Warren Commission with all of the information which was relevant in any way to the assassination of President Kennedy?

I am including in that question information concerning a number of possible motives, means, or opportunities to kill President Kennedy.

A It is difficult for me to answer. I suppose that Castro in his anger wanted to dispose of all who opposed him, including Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and so on and so forth, but I do not know what action they took in that direction.

As a matter of fact, when this subject was discussed

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long after these particular incidents had been cancelled, I on several occasions said that it was my opinion--and others agreed with me--that the disposal of Castro would not solve the problem of Cuba. You knew what you had in Castro but you would not know what you would get afterwards.

Q What effect did the CIA's concern for protecting sensitive sources and methods have on the information which the Agency provided to the Warren Commission?

A I do not think it had any effect with respect to Oswald and the assassination and Oswald's motivation and any information that they had of a possible conspiracy. None of that was withheld to my knowledge.

Now, what was not commented on was activities unrelated to Oswald that might have been the motivating cause
for a conspiracy of which Oswald was planning. Now, I do not
think that was commented upon at all. You see the differentiation there.

Q Could you give specific examples of what you have just been saying? In other words, in what cases was the CIA's concern for protecting sensitive sources and methods? And in what cases was this concern a cause for them to withhold information from the Warren Commission?

For example, did the CIA's concern about its sensitive sources or methods in Mexico City lead the CIA to withhold certain information which the CIA had obtained from

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- A Not that I know of, no.
- Q Mr. McCone, do you know whether Allen Dulles played any special role on the Warren Commission insofar as the CIA was concerned?
- A No, I do not. I had the impression that he was on there as independent of all other members of the Commission; he was not there as a spokesman nor representative of the intelligence community. To my knowledge, he was not.
- Q Did he in any way represent the interests of the CIA on the Warren Commission?
 - A No, not at all.
- Q Did he ever leak any Warren Commission-related information to the CIA?
 - A Not to me.
- Q How often did you have contact with Allen Dulles during the period when the Warren Commission was in existence?
 - A Very infrequently.
- Q Do you know how often Mr. Dulles had contacts with other CIA representatives during the period that the Warren Commission was in existence?
 - A No, I do not.
- Q Do you recall ever giving any personal briefings to Alan Dulles?
 - A No, I did not.

And do you recall Allen Dulles ever giving you any personal briefings?

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Can you tell me what role the CIA's Mexico City station had in the CIA's investigation of the assassination?

Well, Mr. Helms could give you more specific infor-Α mation, but they were instructed to determine what Oswald's motives were when he was in Mexico City and they determined that to our satisfaction, although there is somebody's opinion that the station in Mexico City lost contact with Oswald for about 24 hours.

What do you mean by saying that the station lost contact with Oswald?

Well, they did not know where he was.

Are you saying that the station's surveillance operations were not able to determine his location for 24 hours?

Yes. Now, I am repeating things that have come to Α me since that I have heard in the last year or two, that there was a period of 24 hours that for some reason or other the station did not know his whereabouts and was not in touch with him.

When you say that the station did not know his whereabouts, are you saying that as a result of its surveillance operations, both mechanical and human, and as a result of its

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other sources and methods in Mexico City, it was not able, from any of these means, to determine where he was for a 24-hour period?

A I cannot answer that question because I am not familiar with the details.

Q Would you say that the role of the Mexico City station was a major role relative to the roles of some of the other stations?

A Yes. The Mexico City station is a very important station and it had many responsibilities.

Q I am speaking specifically with reference to the investigation of the assassination.

A Well, its input was very important but with respect to the total responsibilities of the station, the surveillance of Oswald seven or eight weeks before the assassination was a routine matter.

Q Would you say that the Mexico City station was important because it had information concerning Oswald who was a defector who had returned from the Soviet Union to the effect that he had been in contact with the Soviets and with the Cubans in Mexico City?

A Well, we determined that, the station determined that his purpose of going to Mexico City was to secure from the Cuban Embassy a transit visa to Havana and then on to the Soviet Union.

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Do you know what sources and methods were used to 0 make this determination? Α No.

Do you know who the Chief of Station in Mexico City was at that time?

If my memory serves me right, it was a man named Α Scott.

- Are you speaking of Winston Scott? 0
- Α Win Scott, yes.
- How would you evaluate his competence? Q

Well, he was considered a very good officer and had Α remarkably close relationships with the authorities in Mexico.

- Do you know whether he maintained an adequate system Q of record-keeping and filing in Mexico City station?
 - I do not know that. Α
 - , Q Would you repeat that?
 - Α I do not know that.
 - Q Thank you.

Do you know whether Mr. Scott had a personal safe that was located in Mexico City?

- Α A personal safe? No, I do not.
- Do you know whether after Mr. Scott suddenly died James Angleton went to Mexico City and removed from Scott's personal safe certain documents?
 - No, that was after my time. I knew nothing of that.

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files	afte	r i	1r. S	Scott	's de	ath?					

A No.

Q Do you know whether those files or parts of them were sent to headquarters or whether they were retained in Mexico City?

A No. That was all after my time, you see, and I would not know that.

Q Did you happen to know a CIA employee by the name of Miss Goodpasture, Ann Goodpasture?

A I do not recall it, no.

Q Did you ever review the cable traffic that flowed between the Mexico City station and headquarters with regard to Oswald's visits prior to the assassination and also with regard to the assassination investigation after the assassination?

A Yes, it seems to me I saw a considerable quantity of it. I would not say that every communications came across:

my desk, but I saw a number of the communications.

Q Do you know who would have been primarily responsible for reviewing the cable traffic between Mexico City and head-quarters?

A No. I cannot at this time tell you. I cannot recall.

Q Do you know about the surveillance operations which

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were in effect at the Mexico City station in 1963 against the Soviet and Cuban Embassies and consulates?

A I know there were surveillance operations but I do not know the details of it.

- Q Do you know whether the surveillance operations involved photographic surveillance?
 - A I do not know that.
- Q Do you know whether the surveillance operations involved bugs or telephone wire taps?
 - A No, I do not know that.
- Q Do you know how the information which the Mexico City station received about Oswald during his visit there was obtained?
- A Not specifically, but my impression is that it was from human resource intelligence.
- Oswald's contacts in Mexico City with the Soviet and Cuban Embassies and consulates became significant, at that time were you briefed about the Mexico City surveillance operations which had made certain determinations about Oswald's whereabouts and contacts?
 - A Do you mean after the assassination?
- Q Yes, after the assassination, were you briefed concerning how the CIA was able to determine Oswald's whereabouts, contacts and other specifics?

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A I was briefed on what the station knew about Oswald, but I was not briefed as to how they knew it. I could not tell you in all candor whether it was from agents in place or bugs or telephone taps or what, or a combination of them.

Q Do you know why you would not have been apprised of the sources and methods used to determine exactly what Oswald was doing in Mexico City?

A It is not common in any intelligence organization to reveal in detail sources and methods.

Q Would you say it was common for the sources and methods to be withheld from you as the Director of Central Intelligence?

A I do not think it was a question of withholding; I think it is more in the tradition of the intelligence community to pass on the findings and retain in relatively narrow circles the methods.

Q As Director of Central Intelligence, wouldn't you have preferred to know exactly what sources and methods were used to obtain this information in order to evaluate better the reliability of this information?

A I was satisfied that I knew enough to consider the information reliable.

Q Were you ever shown transcripts of conversations involving Oswald from Mexico City?

A I do not remember; perhaps I was but I do not recall.

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	· - ·
2	Q Were you ever shown photographs concerning the time
3	when Oswald was in Mexico City?
4	A Perhaps so, but I cannot recall; it is so many years
5	ago.
á	Q Do you know whether the Warren Commission was told
	about the specific surveillance operations which the CIA con-
!	ducted in Mexico City?
3	A Well, they were told a good deal about it, just how
ŋ,	detailed you would have to inquire of other witnesses.
10	Q Mr. McCone, I would like to show you a document
. 11	labeled CIA Number 177. This number refers to the page which
: 2	has been designated by the CIA to keep these documents in
13	order. Would you read this document which is a CIA cable?
	A Coded from the ten there ACC-I TENVOY

Coded from the top there, ACC

Do you know the meaning of LIENVOY?

No.

LIEMITH

Do you know the meaning of "Lie empty," paragraph 2?

No. Α

One October '68, American male who spoke broken Russian, said his name, Lee Oswald, phonetic, stated he-some embassy ---

You do not have to read that out loud, Mr. McCone. Does the entry in paragraph 2 contain a description of someone whom the Mexico City station thought might be Lee Harvey Oswald?

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Well, I could not tell from this. Α

Do you feel that that is an accurate description of Lee Harvey Oswald?

I do not have the slightest idea. I wouldn't have the slightest idea.

At this time, I would like to show you a picture which the Warren Commission designated as GBUM Exhibit 1. Do you know the origin of that picture?

No, I do not. Α

Do you know whether that picture was obtained as a result of CIA's photographic surveillance operations in Mexico City?

No.

Do you know whether that picture corresponds with the physical description contained in CIA document number 177?

Well, you cannot tell. It says that he is about 35 years old, atheletic build, and this fellow looks about that, about six feet; you cannot tell, receding hairline. He has a ** receding hairline.

Do you know why the person in this picture might have been mistakenly thought to be Lee Harvey Oswald?

I haven't the slightest idea, no. A

Do you know when the Warren Commission was told about. this picture and given an explanation about its origin?

Α No.

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A Would it have what?

Q Do you know whether the Warren Commission was given a copy of the cable which is labeled CIA Number 177?

A I am not familiar with this cable but I suppose since it relates to our file on Oswald that they were given this cable.

Q Now, Mr. McCone, CIA Number 177, which I had you look at, was a cable dated 10/9/63, from Mexico City to the CIA headquarters, which dealt with the contact Lee Harvey Oswald had had with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. I would also like to have you look at pages 179, 180 and 181, which constitute a cable dated 10/10/1963 from CIA headquarters in response to the earlier cable.

Can you tell me whether this cable contains a correct description of Lee Harvey Oswald?

- A I cannot say; I do not know. I never saw Oswald.
- Q This cable states that Lee Oswald's middle name was Henry. Do you know how that error could have been made?
 - A No.
- This cable also mentions that Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union and had then returned to the United States.

 Do you think that when it was realized that Oswald had been this would a defector to the Soviet Union, would this have escalated in any way the significance of his contacts with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City?

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Q Once it was known that Oswald was a defector who had lived in the Soviet Union, do you think this information would have increased the significance of his contacts with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City?

A Well, I cannot very well answer that, whether they retained an interest in him or not. He defected into the Soviet Union and then sought reentry into the United States which he secured, and then he sought reentry into the Soviet Union, seeking a transit visa through Havana and this was refused.

Now, whether that means that they abandoned interest in him or had an interest but let it lie dormant, I do not know.

Q Would the additional fact that Oswald had also been in contact with the Cuban Embassy and consulate in Mexico City have added to the significance of his trip to Mexico City, when you consider that he was a defector to the Soviet Union and had also had contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City?

A What is the question?

Q I will repeat the question. In light of the fact that headquarters sent to the Mexico City station this cable, which mentioned that Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union and had then returned, I was asking whether this increased the significance of his contact with the Soviet Embassy and, in addition, if it had been known that he was in contact with the

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Cuban Embassy, would this also have increased the interest which the CIA had in Oswald?

Well, obviously they had enough interest in him to watch him pretty closely when he was in Mexico City.

I would like next to show you a document labeled CIA Number 1863. Would you read that to yourself?

Were you ever shown a copy of this document or any other documents relating to Oswald's contacts with the Soviet or Cuban Embassies in Mexico City?

I cannot recall. I know I was brief on the contacts. Α Whether I was actually shown the documents like this, now 13 or 14 years ago, I cannot tell you.

Q Do you know the origin of the information contained in that document?

Well, it was from -- through the sources and methods that they employed in Mexico City.

Do you know whether the sources and methods included tape recordings of Oswald's voice?

Α No.

Do you know whether this document is a transcription of a tape recording of Oswald's voice?

Α I do not, no.

Do you know whether the CIA ever obtained tape re-Q cordings of Oswald's voice at any time?

Well, you would have to ask people that were closer Α

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to the operations than I to answer that question.

Q Do you know whether there were any tape recordings of Oswald's voice in existence and in the possession of the CIA at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy?

A Well, if they made tape recordings when he was in Mexico a few weeks before the assassination, they would have them.

Q Do you know whether the Mexico City station commonly kept tape recordings or whether these tape recordings were routinely destroyed?

A Well, as a rule, often tape recordings are transcribed and they are usually destroyed simply because of the volume of them and the problem of storing them and keeping them. What the practice was in the Mexico City station, I do not know.

Q In a memo from J. Edgar Hoover to Secret Service
Chief Rowley, dated November 23, 1963, reference is made to
tape recordings of Oswald's voice which were sent from Mexico.
City to Dallas where they were examined by the FBI. Do you
have any knowledge about such tape recordings?

A No.

Q Mr. McCone, I would next like to show you a document labeled CIA Number 2140 and ask you to read that to yourself. This document is a dissemination cable, dated 10/10/63 from CIA headquarters.

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Reading the first paragraph, do you know why this dissemination cable contained an incorrect description of Lee Harvey Oswald?

In asking that question, I want to remind you that we previously ---

A Well, I do not see anything particularly inaccurate in that first paragraph.

Q In asking you that question, I want to remind you that we previously looked at the document labeled CIA Number 179 to 181, which contain a more correct description of Lee Harvey Oswald. Because this document was sent from CIA head-quarters containing a correct description, I wondered if you could comment as to why this document labeled 2140 contains a less correct description.

A There is not very much difference. He is 35 years old, athletic build, about six foot tall and receding hairline.

Q Could I refer you back to pages 179 to 181? Wouldn't you say that the description of Lee Harvey Oswald on page 179 is more correct than the description you just looked at on page 2140?

A I do not see any difference. One says he is 5'10; the other says he is six feet.

Q What about the weight difference?

A Well, there isn't any weight difference. One says he is 165 pounds and the other says that he is an athletic build.

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		•-•				
2	Q	How about				
3	А	They both say he is 35 years old. Light brown				
:	wavey ha	air, athletic build, about six feet tall with a receding				
5	hairline	· ·				
ö	Q	I believe that the page numbered 179 contains Oswald's				
-	date of	birth, which would not have made him 35 years old.				
,	A	Well, you ought to parse the sentences on these				
õ	things;	I cannot do it. I think you are "Xnitpicking" in				
9	somethin	ng here myself.				
:0	Q	Do you know whether the Mexico City station ever				
11	obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald?					
12	A	I do not know that.				
13	Q	Were you ever shown any photographs from Mexico City?				
11	A	I do not remember.				
15	Q	Do you think if you had been shown a picture of Lee				
	Harvey Oswald you would remember seeing it?					
15	A	No.				
17	Q	Do you know whether immediately after the assassina-				
18	tion of	President Kennedy a CIA employee named Charlotte				
19	Bustos	filed at CIA headquarters a photograph of Lee Harvey				
20	Oswald t	that had been taken in Mexico City?				
21,	A	I do not know that.				
22	Q	Are you familiar with the cryptonxm "AM-MUG/1"?				
~~	That is,	, "AM-MUG/1"?				

I might have been at that time, but I do not recall

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That was 15 years ago. it now.

Would it refresh your recollection if you were told that this individual was a defector from the Cuban Intelligence Agency, DGI, who had provided the CIA with information indicating that Oswald had had certain contacts in Mexico City with the Cuban DGI?

Well, I can recall that we had reports that Oswald А had had contacts with the Cuban Intelligence Service.

Were you ever told the source or method which had Q obtained this information?

No, not to my knowledge nor my recollection. might have been at the time.

Do you know whether the Warren Commission was ever apprised of the information which was obtained from the individual known as

Well, all I can repeat is what I have said several times in this interview that the CIA were instructed to turn over to the Warren Commission all information in their files % relating to Lee Oswald. And I would presume that photographs and communications of the type you have been looking at were all part of the transmissions.

Do you know whether the information which was sent from the CIA to the Warren Commission would have contained information as to the source, as to the fact that this information came from a Cuban DGI defector?

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A No, that might involve revealing of sources and methods rather than the end product, and I would question whether that was revealed but it might have been.

Q Did you feel that the Warren Commission had a need to know at certain points the sources and methods involved in obtaining CIA information?

A Chief Justice Warren, the Chairman of the Commission, knew from me that if the Commission or its staff wanted any information from CIA that they did not feel that they were getting and they felt was pertinent to their investigation, all they had to do was pick up the phone and call me and I would see that he got it, and I never received such a call to my knowledge.

Q Do you know whether the Warren Commission was ever given by the CIA information developed on a person in Mexico City named Louisa Calderon?

A No, that name is not familiar to me.

Q Would it refresh your recollection if you were told that Louisa Calderon was an employee at the Cuban Embassy or consulate in Mexico City?

A Well, I know there was an employee in the Cuban Embassy or consulate in Mexico City, a woman, but what her name was I do not know.

Q Would you be thinking of Sylvia Duran?

A It might have been her.

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That name rings more of a bell to me than the prior name you mentioned.

Q In 1963 or 1964, did the CIA have any agents or sources of information within the Cuban Embassy or consulate in Mexico City?

- A I am not prepared to answer that question.
- Q Could you explain how you are not prepared to answer the question?
 - A Well, I do not remember.
 - Q Fine, thank you.

Do you recall the name of an employee at the Cuban Embassy or consulate in Mexico City, a woman named Theresa Pruenza?

- A No.
- Q Do you recall allegations by a man named Alvarado concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's contacts in Mexico City to the effect that he was given money to perform an assassination?
 - A Who was given money?
- Q Let me repeat the question. Do you recall any allegations by a man named Alvarado concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's contacts in Mexico City which had conspiratorial overtones?

A Not specifically. There were all kinds of rumors floating around about conspiracies and money going to Oswald and all that sort of thing, but none of them ever stood the

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light of day to my knowledge.

Q Mr. McCone, I would like to draw your attention to Warren Commission Exhibit Number 870, which is an affidavit signed by you, dated 18 May 1964. Do you recall making such an affidavit which states that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an agent or employee of the CIA?

A Yes, I do.

Q Can you explain what steps were taken to determine that Oswald was never connected to the CIA?

A Yes. We made a very thorough search of all of our records, interrogations of all people who might have been in a position where they would have made contact. They did an examination of our financial disbursements, communications and so forth and reached the conclusion set forth in this affidavit.

Q Do you know whether Lee Harvey Oswald was ever contacted by the CIA at any time?

A Oh, he might have been contacted; I couldn't say, so the Agency never contacted him, interviewed him, talked with him or received or solicited any reports or information from him or communicated with him directly or indirectly in any other manner.

Now, whether that covers a whole period that we knew something about Oswald, when he defected and first went to Leningrad and he got married and so forth, I do not know.

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But that is a pretty comprehensive statement.

- I believe that the statement is the Agency never contacted him, et cetera.
 - Well, then they did not.
- Do you know whether the agency ever considered contacting him in any manner; for example, when he returned from the Soviet Union to the United States, do you know whether the Agency considered debriefing him about his life in the Soviet Union and about any possible contacts he would have had with the Soviet Intelligence Service?

(No response.)

When the CIA investigated the allegation that Oswald had some connection with the CIA, did this investigation lead to any investigative report?

I presume so. I do not know that I ever read them, but if CIA conducted an investigation of that nature through its Deputy Director for Operations or through the Inspector General, there would be a report on it.

- Do you know whether a file search could be made to resolve the issue of whether Oswald was connected in any way with the CIA?
 - Well, I think it was made.
- Do you know whether there is any possible way to check the possibility that the file or files could have been falsified or purged to avoid revealing a connection between an

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individual and the CIA?

Well, Mr. Helms testified on that point under oath, Α and you have his testimony. I think I would take that as factual.

Allen Dulles allegedly said to one or more Warren Commission members that if Oswald had had some connection with the CIA that connection would probably not be revealed. Would you care to comment on that alleged statement by Allen Dulles?

Well, I think Allen Dulles spoke in error because I Α think that if that had been the case, I would not have signed a sworn affidavit denying it nor would I have so testified nor would Mr. Helms so testify. Now, there are a great many contacts that CIA has that are never revealed to anyone and that is quite necessary, but I think Allen was misstating fact when he said that we would deny any contact under questioning before a commission, such as the Warren Commission when we are under oath.

Assuming that the CIA did not debrief Lee Harvey Oswald at any time, do you feel that it would have been in the interest of the CIA to debrief Oswald after his return from the Soviet Union?

Well, that question had better be directed towards the counterintelligence service who sometimes avoid debriefing for fear of exposing some of their own counterintelligent operations.

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Q The following factors are some of the factors that have been cited by various individuals as circumstantial evidence indicating that Oswald did have connections with the American intelligence community. I would like to have you respond to these factors.

The first factor is the fact that there was no commercially available air transportation for Oswald to have traveled from England to Helsinki at the times that he did in fact travel. Do you have any response on that?

A No.

Ω Another factor is the ease with which Oswald received his early hardship discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. Do you have any comment on that?

A No.

Q Another factor is the ease and speed with which he received his visa to get into the Soviet Union. Do you have any comment?

A No.

Q Another factor is the ease and speed with which Oswald was reissued a passport in 1963 despite his earlier attempt to defect and to renounce his American citizenship.

A No.

Q You have no comment?

A No comment.

Q Another factor is the relative ease with which U.S.

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officials permitted Oswald to return to the U.S. after his stay in the Soviet Union. Do you have any comment?

A No.

Q Could you state what weight, if any, should be given to these factors in evaluating whether Oswald was an agent, or source of information, or employee of any American intelligence agency?

A Well, I think that you in investigating this matter all available source; ought to run down those questions through the until you are satisfied. You have considerable amount of testimony that denies each one of them. Surely, the issuance of visas and passports, reentry permits and so forth all would be in the records of the Immigration Department and the State Department.

Q Do you believe it would be possible for an individual or individuals or section or sections within the CIA which may have had contact with Oswald or may have used him in some way to cover up any such contact or use and effectively keep it from becoming known by their superiors in the CIA?

A I would not think so. I would think that the reverse would be true since everyone in the country and certainly everyone in the CIA was anxious to know all that could be known about Oswald, what motivated him, that any agent or subagent that might have had contact with him without knowledge of his superiors would have come forth with it. That would have been the tradition of the service.

Q Do you feel that the possible embarrassment of revealing such a contact or use of Oswald would have militated against revealing that information?

A I cannot see why.

Do you feel that if, hypothetically, Oswald had been used and if it ever came out that he had been used or had been an agent for the CIA, that this would have lead to allegations that the CIA was itself involved in some way in the actual assassination?

A Yes, I think that accusation has been made in the papers by irresponsible writers, and you have read it and I have read it but I cannot see that revealing that he was an informer or operator for CIA at one time would have been of any embarrassment to the Agency. And, therefore, I do not think there was any reason for the Agency to withhold such information.

Q Do you have any knowledge as to whether Oswald was an agent for Soviet Intelligence or for Cuban Intelligence Agencies?

A The impression I have is that he was an unacceptable character in the Soviet Union and they were delighted to get rid of him. That is the impression I have. And whether they expressed that to the Embassy in Moscow, "Get this guy out of here; we don't want any part of him" or not, I do not know.

There was a feeling, and you have probably heard it,

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that prevailed that he was, in effect, thrown out of the Soviet Union.

Q Do you have any evidence or information which would substantiate that feeling?

A No. This is just a feeling on my part. There may be some documents on it in the CIA files and maybe some of the operators that were in the operation or counterintelligence would have some information on that. I think it came to my office by hearsay rather than by --word of mouth--rather than by document.

Q Do you have any suggestions as to how the allegation that Oswald was linked to some American intelligence agency can be best resolved?

A Sure. The best way to resolve that is for you to make the most penetrating examination and reach a conclusion and publish it and take it out of the area of speculation by some of these irresponsible writers. That is the way to do it, what I would hope to be the conclusion of your investigation.

Q As Director of Central Intelligence, were you familiar with the case of a Russian defector named Nosenko?

A Yes.

Q Do you know whether Nosenko was and is a bonafide defector or whether he was or is a penetration agent?

A Well, that is a long, controversial argument. There was a group of the counterintelligence people headed by Jim

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13 24 Angleton, who felt that he was a plant. There were others that felt he was legitimate and could point to a substantial number of—substantial amount of information given by Nosenko which was valuable and which was correct.

Now, just what persuaded Angleton that he was a plant and a double agent was never revealed to me, but we felt that for a great many years.

Q Do you know whether the information which Nosenko provided on Oswald and the Soviet Union was valuable or correct?

A I do not know that, no, but you can determine that very easily.

Q Do you have an opinion one way or the other as to whether Nosenko was a bonafide defector?

A I am inclined to believe that he is bonafide for the reason that I was familiar with information that came from Nosenko which was legitimate and correct and proper.

Now, Angleton will argue that a double agent would go along acting legitimately for a number of years before he throws his knife, you know, so when you discuss this with Angleton, he will say, "Just you wait now; his time is not here yet."

Q Mr. McCone, I would like to ask you about several people. I would like to run their names by you to see what information you could provide about them.

Did you know David Phillips?

INI DEUTE

2	A	Yes.
3	Q	Was he an agency employee?
4	A	Yes.
5	Q	Do you know where he worked in 1963?
·o	A	No.
	Q	Did you know Ann Egerter?
7	A	No, not that I recall. I may have known her but I
63	do not r	ecall her.
9 1	Q	Do you know whether she was an Agency employee?
!C	A	I do not know.
11	Q	Did you know Charlotte Bustos?
12	A	Not that I recall.
13	Q	Do you know whether she was an Agency employee?
14	А	No.
:	Q	Do you know or did you know Maurice Bishop?
15	, A	Yes.
15	Q	Was he an agency employee?
17	A	I believe so.
13	Q	Do you know what his duties were in 1963?
19	A	No.
20	Q	Do you know whether any of these people worked at
21	headquar	ters in 1963, or worked in the field in 1963?
7.2	A	Well, they move back and forth and it is pretty hard
73		just where they were in 1963, but the records will sho
	and you	can get it from the Office of the present Director.

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He will have records where they were, or the personnel department.

Q Do you know what positions were held by these

A No.

people?

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Q What positions they held--let me rephrase that question . Do you know the highest position that each of these individuals held in the CIA?

A No, I do not.

Q For instance, do you know whether Maurice Bishop worked in the Western Hemisphere Division or whether he worked in some other division of the CIA?

A I do not know. I do not recall. I knew at that time, but I do not recall.

Q Do you know whether Maurice Bishop used any pseudo-nyms.

A No, I would not know that.

Q Do you know whether the name Maurice Bishop was infact a pseudonym?

A No, I do not know that.

Q Ckay. Did you know Ann Goodpasture?

A No.

Q Mr. McCone, I have no further questions at this point.

It is the policy of the Committee to grant to the witness at the end of a deposition five minutes of free time to either

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sum up or to clarify the information which he has provided or to make whatever comments that might be useful at this point, and I would like to give you that opportunity now.

A Well, thank you. I commend the work that the Committee staff are doing because I think that it is important in our national interest and our peace of mind to resolve once and for all, if possible, the question of whether Lee Oswald was operating as an individual and on his own motivation or whether he was part of a group who had for one reason or another planned the assassination of President Kennedy.

I concurred in the Warren Commission's conclusion that he operated as an individual and I have examined in some detail the statements that because of the now admitted programs of the United States Government through the CIA to assassinate Castro that Castro was whitting as to these efforts and picked his time and arranged for Oswald to do the job.

I have given a great deal of thought to that and I have dismissed it as a possibility for the reason that we know, that Oswald went to Mexico City a few weeks before the assassination seeking a transit visa through both the Mexican Embassy and the Soviet Embassy in Mexico so that he could move from Mexico City to Havana and then on to the Soviet Union.

If Castro and his associates or his intelligence organization had, in my opinion, been part of a conspiracy to assassinate the President, then they would have given Oswald

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They would have planned more carefully for an escape hatch. his escape from Dallas over the border and into Mexico and then on to Havana.

They refused to do this and, therefore, if they were part of a conspiracy, then they ran the risk of Oswald being caught, confessing that he was part of a conspiracy, implicating the Cubans and possibly the Soviets with unpredictable results.

It seems to me that the master-minds of such conspiracy would have provided, as I say, an escape route from Dallas which was not only not done but was refused.

Now, there is another theory that I disagree with and that is that Ruby was brought in for the sole purpose of assassinating Oswald, thus silencing him and, therefore, eliminating any possibility that he would, in effect, implicate the Cubans or the Soviets or both in a conspiracy.

A careful examination of Ruby's operation and the bizzare manner in which he assassinated Oswald would lead one * to believe that it could not have been planned. If such an idea had been planned and the thought had been advanced to me that since Ruby was a terminal cancer case that for a certain payment, he would do his part of the job and get rid of Oswald and then would pass on himself from natural causes does not seem to stand up because if that was the plan, then he would have positioned himself so that he would have been absolutely

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sure that he would dispose of Oswald rather than run the risk of the opening that he had which could not have been foreseen and was most unusual.

Therefore, after I go through these various conjectures, I go back to the basic conclusion of the Warren Commission. I regret that the Warren Commission did not examine the consequences of a nonpublished plans for the assassination of Castro, which he ultimately knew about.

But I have always been under the assumption, gone under the assumption since Allen Dulles knew all about these plans and was a member of the Commission, he briefed the Commission in closed session, and there is no reference made to this matter in their public report.

This, I think has to be determined by your--the

Committee and its staff and it can be easily determined by the

examination of one or two of the members of the Commission

and there are several that are now available to you. I think

that the CIA acted very correctly; they turned over to the

Warren Commission all that they had in their files on Oswald,

all communications of every nature relating to Oswald.

They did not turn over to the Commission certain Commission sources and methods, but they did turn over to the--the conclusions that they reached and it would have been incorrect, in my opinion, for them to have blown their sources and methods because they were useful not only in the Oswald case

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but in countless other cases and and an intelligence service to be successful permanently must protect their sources and methods.

I think the relationship between the CIA and the other intelligence organizations, particularly the FBI and the Secret Service, was reasonably good but I think you must recognize that there is a certain amount of pride of ownership in these things, and sometimes one service is inclined to be protective of its information. And this may have stood in the way of a complete counterflow of information between the two or three agencies.

But I felt at the time that communication was satisfactory. There were several FBI men stationed in Langley at the time and they were in almost hourly contact with the CIA people.

It is very difficult for me to answer some of the detailed questions because, as you know, I have been out of government for many years. I have no access to files and could only have them by going back to Washington, which I have not had an opportunity to do, and we are talking about events of some 15 years ago, and my memory is not all that good.

So, if you want further information from me, I would be very glad to make myself available to you.

Q Mr. McCone, on behalf of the Select Committee on

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Assassinations, I would like to thank you for taking the time to give us this statement. And if you have any additional information which you feel would help the Committee in performings its functions, feel free to contact us.

(Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., the deposition was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me by direct recording to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction, that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness, that I am neither counsel for, related to nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the party thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Notary E	Public	in	and'	for
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My Commission expires:

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